



COACHELLA VALLEY iHUB (WESTERN COACHELLA VALLEY/GREATER PALM SPRINGS)

The Coachella Valley iHub has a focus on entrepreneurship and clean technology development and commercialization. It exists within the geographic boundaries of the Cities of Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs and Cathedral City. A wide range of public and private sector stakeholders/partners are involved, including the University of California-Riverside, the College of the Desert, various local and regional economic development and small business development agencies, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Desert Regional Medical Center, various utility companies among other consulting, manufacturing and media entities.

Located in the I-10 Energy Corridor in Southern California's desert region it is optimally situated for participation in the clean and renewable energy industry. The creation of clean energy generation systems and the training of Californians in the skills necessary to work in this industry are priorities of the Coachella Valley iHub.

The opening of the Desert Energy Enterprise Center, which provides a facility for co-locating training programs, demonstration projects, and partnership activities in renewable energy is one of the many contributions the Coachella Valley iHub is making to the regional economy. The Desert Energy Enterprise Center provides classroom and laboratory space where industry products and prototypes can be demonstrated for potential energy customers. Programs that commenced in the winter of 2010 include training for utility-scale solar energy plant construction and maintenance under a Desert Region Renewable Energy Training Program as well as a Wind Turbine Technician Training program which will train workers in wind turbine maintenance, troubleshooting and repair.

Work is under way in the creation of a clean technology incubator space in a currently vacant City-owned building, located across the street from City Hall and the Palm Springs International Airport which will assist technology entrepreneurs and start-up companies by providing an affordable physical infrastructure, an intellectual and entrepreneurial environment and a supportive service network assisting with their success in a competitive global market.

The City of Palm Springs has recently opened escrow to acquire land from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that will be the site of the future College of the Desert West Valley campus. The campus will have a focus on clean technology curriculum, provide commercially operated facilities for training, research & development, business incubation of "clean technologies" and is the desired long term location for the Coachella Valley iHub. In addition, the campus will include a GreenPark, which is a 60- to 70-acre site that will feature sustainable energy generating systems such as solar field and wind energy generators, and facilities for research and development and teaching and learning. GreenPark has the potential to generate energy for 2,800 homes and provide a revenue stream for College of the Desert and the campus from the sale of surplus energy. The campus first phase buildings are expected to be in operation by fall 2014.

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INNOVATION INSPIRATION OPPORTUNITY